

REMARKS

The Double Patenting Rejection Is Obviated.

Since Claims 30 and 33 have been canceled, the double patenting rejection is obviated. Reconsideration with favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Claim Rejections Are Overcome.

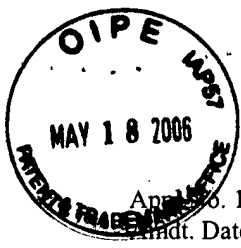
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim. By the above amendments, the subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 18. Claims 1 and 18 (and all claims depending therefrom) are believed to now be in condition for full allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-33 have been canceled, and the rejection of these claims has thereby been obviated.

Conclusion.

Having addressed all of the Examiner's concerns expressed in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants believe that Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-26 are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

In the event this response is not timely filed and an extension of time is not requested, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any other fees which may be due with respect to this response, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1971.



App. No. 10/713,290

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If the Examiner identifies additional issues which can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 918-595-4860.

Respectfully submitted,

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